

Claims

Subj 1
What is claimed is:

1. A method of verifying proper coupling of
5 an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an
operator who is located in a cab of a work machine,
with (i) the work machine including the implement
assembly and the lift arm assembly, (ii) the implement
assembly including a hinge plate, (iii) the hinge plate
10 having a first coupling aperture extending
therethrough, (iv) the lift arm assembly having a lift
arm and a cylinder, and (v) the cylinder being secured
to the lift arm, comprising the steps of:

actuating the cylinder so as to move a pin
15 from a first pin position to a second pin position,
wherein (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first
coupling aperture when the pin is located in the first
pin position, and (ii) the pin extends through the
first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the
20 second pin position; and

viewing the pin when the pin is located in
the second pin position by the operator from a position
within the cab whereby proper coupling of the implement
assembly to the lift arm assembly is verified by the
25 operator without having to exit the cab.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the hinge plate further has a hook portion,
the lift arm has a support bar, and
30 the hook portion hookingly engages the
support bar.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein:
the lift arm further has a support plate,
the support plate has a second coupling
aperture defined therethrough, and
5 the pin further extends through the second
coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second
pin position.

10 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the
actuating step includes the step of:
advancing a ~~hydraulic~~ fluid into the cylinder
so as to move the pin from the first pin position to
the second pin position.

15 5. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the work machine includes a seat positioned
within the cab, and
the viewing step occurs while the operator is
seated upon the seat.

20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the viewing step includes the step of viewing
an end portion of the pin when the pin is located in
the second pin position by the operator from the
25 position within the cab, and
the end portion of the pin is advanced
through the first coupling aperture when the pin is
moved from the first pin position to the second pin
position.

Sub B2

7. A method of verifying proper coupling of an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an operator who is located in a cab of a work machine, with (i) the work machine including the implement assembly and the lift arm assembly, and (ii) the implement assembly having a first coupling aperture, comprising the steps of:

actuating a cylinder so as to move a pin from a first pin position to a second pin position, wherein
10 (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the first pin position, and (ii) the pin is positioned within the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second pin position; and

15 viewing the pin when the pin is located in the second pin position by the operator from a position within the cab whereby proper coupling of the implement assembly to the lift arm assembly is verified by the operator without having to exit the cab.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein:
the implement assembly includes a hinge plate having the first coupling aperture defined therein.

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9. The method of claim 7, wherein:
the lift arm assembly includes a lift arm,
and
the cylinder is secured to the lift arm.

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10. The method of claim 8, wherein:
the hinge plate further has a hook portion,
the lift arm has a support bar, and
the hook portion hookingly engages the support bar.

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11. The method of claim 9, wherein:
the implement assembly further has a support
plate,
the support plate has a second coupling
aperture defined therethrough, and
the pin further extends through the second
coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second
pin position.

10 12. The method of claim 7, wherein the
actuating step includes the step of:
advancing a ~~hydraulic~~ fluid into the cylinder
so as to move the pin from the first pin position to
the second pin position.

15 13. The method of claim 7, wherein:
the work machine includes a seat positioned
within the cab, and
the viewing step occurs while the operator is
seated upon the seat.

20 14. The method of claim 7, wherein:
the viewing step includes the step of viewing
an end portion of the pin when the pin is located in
the second pin position by the operator from the
position within the cab, and
the end portion of the pin is advanced
through the first coupling aperture when the pin is
moved from the first pin position to the second pin
position.

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15. A work machine, comprising:
a cab in which an operator may be located;
an implement assembly having an implement and
a hinge plate secured thereto, wherein said hinge plate
5 has a first coupling aperture extending therethrough;
and

a lift arm assembly having a lift arm and a
cylinder secured thereto, wherein (i) said cylinder is
operable to move a pin between a first pin position and
10 a second pin position, (ii) said pin is spaced apart
from said coupling aperture when said pin is located in
said first pin position, (iii) said pin extends through
said coupling aperture when said pin is located in said
second pin position, (iv) said pin is positioned within
15 a field of vision of said operator when (A) said pin is
located in said second pin position, and (B) said
operator is located within said cab.

16. The work machine of claim 15, wherein:
20 said cab has a seat located therein on which
said operator may be seated,
said pin is positioned within said field of
vision of said operator when (A) said pin is located in
said second pin position, and (B) said operator is
25 seated upon said seat.

17. The work machine of claim 15, wherein:
said hinge plate further has a hook portion,
said lift arm has a support bar, and
30 said hook portion hookingly engages said
support bar.

18. The work machine of claim 17, wherein:
said lift arm further has a support plate,
said support plate has a second coupling
aperture defined therethrough, and
5 said pin further extends through said second
coupling aperture when said pin is located in said
second pin position.

19. The work machine of claim 15, wherein:
10 said pin is movable between said first pin
position and said second pin position in response to
advancement of a hydraulic fluid within said cylinder.

20. The work machine of claim 15, wherein:
15 said pin includes an end portion,
 said end portion of said pin is advanced
through said first coupling aperture when said pin is
moved from said first pin position to said second pin
position, and
20 said end portion of said pin is positioned
within said field of vision of said operator when (A)
said pin is located in said second pin position, and
(B) said operator is located within said cab.

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